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MEDIA RELEASE

**SECURITIES FRAUD TASK FORCE FILES MULTIPLE
FELONY CHARGES AGAINST FOUR DEFENDANTS,
INCLUDING TWO ATTORNEYS, IN \$200 MILLION PONZI SCHEME**

Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today the filing of four criminal informations which represent the continuing efforts of the Securities Fraud Task Force. This federal and state task force has been investigating international, large scale securities fraud for seven years.

The combined fifteen-count informations charge four persons with conspiracy to commit securities fraud, mail fraud, and wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 371); securities fraud (15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)); selling unregistered securities (15 U.S.C. § 77e(a)); mail fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1341); and wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343). The defendants have agreed to waive indictment and plead guilty. The plea agreements were filed today along with the informations. The maximum statutory penalties for conspiracy, mail, and wire fraud are five years' incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, and three years' supervised release. The statutory maximum penalties for selling unregistered securities are five years' incarceration, a \$10,000 fine, and three years' supervised release. The statutory maximum penalties for securities fraud are ten years' incarceration, a \$1,000,000 fine, and five years' supervised release.

The defendants named in the informations are Thomas Spencer, age 51, of Orlando, Florida; Robert W. Boyd, age 55, of Orlando, Florida; Martin W. Boelens, Jr., age 45, of Orlando, Florida; and Anthony V. Micciche, age 72, of Tampa, Florida. Robert W. Boyd and Martin W. Boelens, Jr. are attorneys. The informations allege that the defendants orchestrated the sale of \$200 million of fraudulent, worthless securities in the Middle District of Florida, in seventeen other states in the United States, and internationally.

The informations charge that beginning in May 1991 and continuing through January 2001, in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere, the defendants devised a scheme to defraud investors by making false and fraudulent promises. The investor funds also included Individual Retirement Account (IRA) monies. The defendants and others who conspired with them sold securities in the form of debt instruments or bonds to victims who often invested their life savings. The defendants created promotional videos, glossy brochures, and other offering documents which described investment opportunities in these bonds. According to the informations, the defendants made materially false representations utilizing United States mail, private and commercial interstate carriers, and direct sales pitches to investors, utilizing stock brokers, insurance agents, and consultants. The defendants promised the investors that they would be purchasing bonds or mutual funds which held ownership interests in AA quality, United States government backed securities with little risk of loss. In reality, up to sixty-seven percent of the investor monies were stolen off the top and the remainder of the investor funds were placed in a highly speculative hedge fund on Wall Street.

According to the informations, the investments were marketed under a variety of

names, including Evergreen Security, Ltd., and Worldwide Bond Partners, Ltd. The Worldwide Bond Partners, Ltd., offering amounted to \$35 million which was sold in the Tampa Bay area. A significant number of the Evergreen Security, Ltd., investors and the Worldwide Bond Partners, Ltd., investors were elderly.

Upon obtaining the investor funds, the defendants moved the money offshore to countries in the Caribbean and Central America, placed them in bank accounts which they controlled, and converted much of the money to their own uses. As a result of the defendants' fraudulent activities, more than 2,000 investors, throughout the United States and in foreign countries, lost approximately \$200 million.

The United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida has worked closely on this matter with the United States Bankruptcy Trustee's Office in Orlando and the Chapter 11 Trustee, R.W. (Bill) Cuthill. Mr. Cuthill has filed numerous civil actions in the Middle District of Florida and has obtained asset freezes on defendants' real and personal properties. As part of the plea agreements, the defendants have agreed to pay restitution to the victims of the fraud.

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Criminal Investigation, the United States Department of Labor, Office of Labor Racketeering, and the Florida Comptroller's Office in Tampa, for their successful and continuing collaboration with the United States Attorney's Office on this task force. Mr. Perez stated: "This multi-agency international effort, focusing on persons involved in securities fraud throughout the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere, is an example of ongoing efforts by law enforcement to combat investor fraud. The United States Attorney's

Office will be using every civil and criminal remedy supplied by Congress to attack this type of fraudulent conduct."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael E. Runyon and Rachelle DesVaux Bedke of the Tampa Economic Crimes Section of the United States Attorney's Office.

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